

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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SUBJ: CALI MEETING OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARRIBBEAN SUGAR
EXPORTING COUNTRIES (GEPLACEA)

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT PREPARED BY AMCONSUL CALI ON THE UPCOM-
ING GEPLACEA MEETING.

2. SUMMARY: THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EX-
PORTING COUNTRIES (GEPLACEA) WILL MEET AT CALI MARCH 7-14. THE
MEETING, WHICH IS TO BE ATTENDED BY AN ESTIMATED 150 DELEGATES
FROM 23 COUNTRIES (PLUS THE PHILIPPINES WITH OBSERVER STATUS) IS
SCHEDULED TO RATIFY THE STATUTES OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION. IN AD-
DITION TO RATIFICATION OF THE STATUTES, THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF
THE MEETING WILL BE TO (1) OBTAIN AGREEMENT UPON A COORDINATED
POLICY FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN NATIONS BEFORE THE
APRIL PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE ISA AT LONDON; (2) FORMALIZE A
PROGRAM FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INTERCHANGE PARTICULARLY WITH REPSECT
TO EFFECTIVE STATISTICAL REGISTRATION OF SUGAR PRODUCTION. THE
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COLOMBIAN DELEGATION IS COMMITTED TO A MODERATING ROLE AT THE

MEETING AND IS CONFIDENT MODERATION WILL PREVAIL. END SUMMARY.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC STUDIES AND STATISTICS OF THE ASOCIACION DE CULTIVADORES DE CANA DE AZUCAR (ASOCANA), DR. VICTALIANO IZQUIERDO, IT WAS LEARNED THAT 23 COUNTRIES PLUS THE PHILIPPINES (ON OBSERVER STATUS) HAVE BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND THIS FOURTH MEETING OF GEPLACEA. IN ADDITION TO THE 150 DELEGATES AND THEIR ACCOMPANYING STAFF, THERE WILL BE AN ESTIMATED 200 OFFICIAL COLOMBIAN PARTICIPANTS. NATIONAL DELEGATIONS UEE EXPECTED TO BE HEADED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. ASOCANA EXPECTS AT THIS TIME, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE BRAZILIAN DELEGATION WILL BE LEAD BY THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER; THE CUBAN DELEGATION BY THE CUBAN MINISTER OF COMMERCE. A FINAL LISTING OF DELEGATES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL NEXT WEEK. PRESIDENT LOPEZ WILL DELIVER THE WELCOMING ADDRESS ON MARCH 7. THE MAJOR HOTEL IN CALI HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR THE USE OF THE ESTIMATED 400 PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING AND TIGHT SECURITY HAS BEEN LAID ON. ALL CLOSED SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL, WHILE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS HELD IN FOUR OTHER SITES THROUGHOUT THE CITY WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

4. FROM THE COLOMBIAN POINT OF VIEW, THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THIS MEETING, IN ADDITION TO THE RATIFICATION OF THE STATUTES OF THE NEW ORGANIZATION, WILL BE THE RESOLUTION OF A COORDINATED LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR PRODUCING NATIONS POSITION FOR USE BEFORE THE ISA MEETINGS LATER THIS YEAR. THIS WOULD INCLUDE GEPLACEA BLOCK SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSED ISA FUND FOR BUFFER STOCKS. A SECOND MAJOR OBJECTIVE IS ELABORATION OF THE PROGRAM APPROVED AT LIMA FOR THE EXCHANGE OF MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGICAL INFORMATION EMPHASIZING PARTICULARLY THE NEED FOR ASSISTING PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES IN IMPROVING STATISTICAL ACCURACY WITH RESPECT TO ASSESSING SUGAR PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION AND EXPORT. THIS LATTER NEED WAS EMPHASIZED AS A MEANS FOR ENABLING GEPLACEA TO REFUTE IMMEDIATELY SPECULATORY RUMORS WHICH SPUR TEMPORARY FLUCTUATIONS IN THE NEW YORK/LONDON MARKETS.

5. THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT MODERATION PREVAILS. COUNTING UPON THE ASSISTANCE OF BRAZIL, VENEZUELA, ARGENTINA, COSTA RICA AND ECUADOR, THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION IS HOPEFUL OF BLOCKING CUBA, PERU, MEXICO, GUYANA AND POSSIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BLY PANAMA FROM TAKING ANY PRICE SETTING ACTION. AT THE SAME TIME, COLOMBIA AND ALL THE OTHER MODERATES NAMED, WILL MOVE TO SPUR SANTO DOMINGO, BOLIVIA AND OTHERS AS WELL AS THE GENERALLY NON-ENTHUSIASTIC CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES TOWARDS THE OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE. THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION, WITH THE ADVANTAGE OF HOSTING THIS MEETING, INTENDS TO HAVE THE HIGHEST LEVEL COLOMBIAN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION TO HEAD EACH OF THE COMMITTEES. AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, APPROXIMATELY 200 COLOMBIAN OFFI-

CIAL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE COMMITTEES. THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION IS HOPEFUL TO HAVE AS HEAD OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE FOR EXAMPLE, THE COLOMBIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, DEVELOPMENT, OR AGRICULTURE. CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMERCIAL COMMITTEE PROBABLY WILL BE THE COLOMBIAN DIRECTOR OF INCOMEX.

6. THIS MEETING WILL SEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSEJO SUPERIOR (SUPERIOR COUNCIL) TO BE COMPRISED OF 5-6 COUNTRIES. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION THAT AT LEAST 3 OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE FROM THE MODERATE GROUP, POSSIBLY ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND COLOMBIA. IT IS ALSO THE INTENTION OF THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATION TO ENSURE THAT MANY OF THE TECHNICAL POSITIONS IN THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE ARE FILLED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM MODERATE COUNTRIES.

COMMENT: WHILE ALL OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS DURING THE MEETING MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE MADE AT THE CLOSED SESSIONS, THE CONSULAE HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM ASOCANA OF THEIR FULL COOPERATION IN PREPARING A FINAL ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING, MARCH 14.
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